

you wanted to raise in the zero hour could not be taken up. Normally, zero hour shall have to be stopped at 1 O'Clock. Some agitation is also going on during zero hour. Zero hour should not be enlarged for more than one hour. Some of our precious time is also lost because of talk across the table. If you just restrain yourself, I think more hon. Members also would have the chance to speak.

Now we shall break for lunch to meet at 14.15 hrs.

13.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after dunch at twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) **Need for early sanction of Bhopal-Ramganj Mandi railway line**

[*Translation*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir necessary provision to conduct survey work on Bhopal Ramganj mandi railway line via Beawara had been made in the 1989-90 Bud get. But the survey work has not yet been completed. I would, therefore, like to make a demand from the hon. Minister of Railways that early sanction may please be accorded to the Bhopal-Ramganj Mandi railway line.

(II) **Need to conduct Cental survey of drought affected areas in Maharashtra and provide c ompensation to the affected people**

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE

(Ramtek): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in view of the drought situation in Maharashtra the Chief Minister of the State has declared 29553 villages as drought affected. My constituency is also affected. Most of the villages are still reeling under acute drought. Due to non-availability of drinking water easily, several people and cattle have died. Standing crops have also dried up due to non-availability of water for irrigation. The farmers are forced to sow the next crops. General public are experiencing acute drought. The situation will become more critical if immediate relief is not provided by the center to these drought hit areas. The Maharashtra Government has sought a relief assistance of Rs.460 crores to tackle the situation. They should be provide necessary assistance immediately. At the same time committee should be constituted to take stock of the situation. It should be sent to the drought affected areas so that correct information about the situation could be gathered and the affected people could be paid due compensation in time.

(III) **Need to provide more financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for drought relief measures**

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD DHUKLA (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir districts of Gorakhpur, Basti, Maharajganj, Siddharthanagar and Deoria in eastern Uttar Pradesh are facing severe drought. This year the monsoon was late. Since the rainfall was inadequate, the farmers had to face a lot of difficulties in sowing and watering the Kharif crops. The crops were completely affected. Due to inadequate rains, there is no moisture in the land. Consequently, the sowing of Rabi crops cannot be done properly. Rabi crops are also fully affected by drought.

Therefore, the above districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh should be declared as drought hit areas and the Centre should provide more financial assistance to the State Gov-